

Remarks

Rejection Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 as failing to have antecedent basis for the phrase "the reinforcing element". Applicants have amended this claim and replaced the phrase "the reinforcing element" with "the reinforced zone", which is recited in currently amended claim 18 of the application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102(e) Based on Nicolo

The Examiner has rejected claims 13,14, 18, 22, 24 and 25 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nicolo.

As discussed above, Applicants have amended claim 18 to incorporate the limitations of claim 20, which was not rejected by the Examiner as being anticipated under 35 USC 102(e) by Nicolo, thereby obviating the rejection of claim 18. Further, all claims have been amended to either directly or indirectly depend from currently amended claim 18. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on Nicolo are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102(e) Based on Ory et al

The Examiner has rejected claims 18-22 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ory et al. Specifically, the Examiner has alleged that Ory et al teach a reinforced zone that is marked in red lines in the outstanding Office Action, and radial reinforcing elements extending from the reinforced zone to the peripheral edge of the structure. The reinforced zone identified by the Examiner

As discussed above, Applicants have amended claim 18 to incorporate the limitations of claim 20, and claims 21-22 depend directly or indirectly from currently amended claim 18. Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled from the application thereby obviating the rejection of these claims.

Claim 18 is now directed to an implant comprising a reinforced zone in a central area of the implant, where the reinforced zone extends in at least one radial direction from the central area to the edge of the implant. Unlike the structure described by Ory et al, the present invention has a reinforced zone in a central area of the implant and that extends in at least one radial direction from the central area to the edge of the implant. In view of the amendments made herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on this reference are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102(a) Based on Goodwin et al

The Examiner has rejected claims 18, 19, 22 and 23 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Goodwin et al.

As discussed above, Applicants have amended claim 18 to incorporate the limitations of claim 20, which was not rejected by the Examiner as being anticipated under 35 USC 102(a) by Goodwin et al, thereby obviating the rejection of claim 18. Further, all claims have been amended to either directly or indirectly depend from currently amended claim 18. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on Goodwin et al are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103 Based on Goodwin et al in view of Hinsch

The Examiner has rejected claims 13-17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodwin et al in view of Hinsch.

Claims 13-17 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from currently amended claim 18, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection of claims 13-17 as being unpatentable over Goodwin et al in view of Hinsch for the reasons set forth above in the discussion of Goodwin et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on Goodwin et al in combination with Hinsch are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the pending claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention, and define subject matter that is novel and unobviousness over the references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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